

REMARKS

Per conversation with the Examiner, Applicants submit the present Preliminary Amendment in connection with the above-identified patent application.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-47, 49, 50, 52-59, and 61-100 are pending in the instant Application. Applicants amend independent claims 1, 24, 42, 62, 68, 75, and 79 to recite a composition that is saturated with a gas selected from a particular grouping not to include air to distinguish from the incidental compositions that have equilibrated with air after sufficient contact with ambient air conditions.

Claims 2, 25, 52, 65, and 95 have been amended to limit the selection of gases to the preferred gases, argon and nitrogen.

No new matter is introduced by way of these Amendments and, accordingly, entry thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

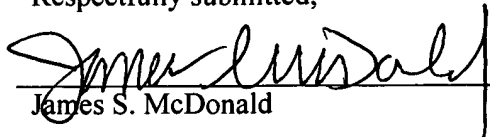
In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in good and proper order for allowance.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 843-4000.

No fee is believed owed in connection with filing of this preliminary amendment. However, should the Commissioner determine otherwise, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (ref. 60937-0129) for the appropriate amount. A copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 25, 2005


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44,229
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